Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, All human beings have an inherent right to life, regardless of age, degree of maturity, or any physical or mental defect; and,

Whereas, The right to life is a fundamental human right upon which all other rights depend, and should always be honored and protected; and,

Whereas, The moment any law deprives innocent human beings of their right to life, the state is denying the equality of all before the law; and,

Whereas, When the state utilizes its power to serve the rights of each person, and in particular of the more vulnerable, the very foundations of a state based on law and the common good are strengthened; and,

Whereas, The state has the responsibility to uphold and protect the right to life and dignity of every human being from conception to natural death; and to peacefully, but resolutely reject all attacks against life; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is well known as one of the most pro-life states in the country for its laws and policies protecting the sanctity of life; and,

Whereas, South Dakotans have demonstrated a consistent life ethic by helping and defending the unborn, the poor, the weak, the disabled, the young, and the terminally ill; and,

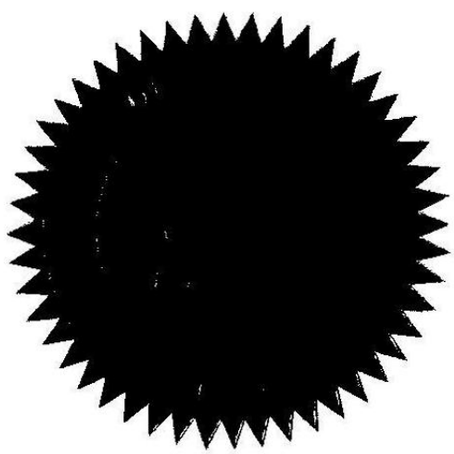
Whereas, South Dakota encourages all people to embrace their rights to speak out in support of life and to participate in the political process and to see this as a meaningful opportunity to help build a culture of life; and,

Whereas, South Dakota recognizes the responsibility of politicians, health care professionals, civic leaders, public servants, and everyone in leadership positions to always defend the weak and defenseless by never actively supporting, either directly or indirectly, any attack on innocent human life:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2004, as

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State